

D. Remarks

1) Koven teaches apparatus displaying an ornament in front of a front panel of a necktie knot. The linking portion of Koven's apparatus depends from a relatively narrow top portion of his holder in front of the front panel of the necktie. Amended Claim 1 distinguishes Applicant's invention from Koven's teaching by providing that a linking portion of Applicant's ornament holder depends from a relatively narrow portion of a base portion of the holder into an exposed position below (and not in front of) the knot. All other portions of Applicant's ornament holder are concealed within the knot, as described in paragraph 22 of the specification. That is, as disclosed in Fig. 2, no portion of Applicant's ornament holder is positioned in front of the front panel of the knot. Amended Claim 8 further distinguishes Applicant's invention from Koven's by requiring that an ornament be inserted entirely through the knot in order to be displayed therebelow.

These amendments are believed to traverse the Examiner's rejection of Claims 1-6 and 8-9 under 35 USC §103(a) over the Koven reference. Reconsideration is requested.

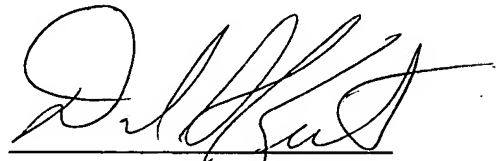
2) The Examiner noted that Koven's apparatus comprises two legs curved about a horizontal axis, as shown in Fig. 7 of that reference. The horizontal axis used by Applicant, who teaches the use of curved ornament holder legs to aid in forming the front panel of a knot (e.g., as shown in Fig 4), is perpendicular to that used by Koven. Claim 3 is amended to point out that distinction.

3) Yasui teaches a knot retainer tied within a necktie knot in such a fashion that at least a portion of his retainer is behind the free end panel of the tie. In the cases where Yasui shows a chain attached to a bottom of his retainer, at least a portion of that chain extends downwardly behind both the front and rear depending ends of the tie. Thus, no combination of the Yasui and Koven references can teach an ornament holder having all portions, other than a link portion for holding the actual ornament, concealed within the knot between the front panel of the knot and the free end of the tie as is recited in amended Claim 1.

These amendments and arguments are believed to traverse the Examiner's rejection of Claim 7 under 35 USC §103(a) over Koven in view of Yasui. Reconsideration is requested.

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Mail: 5901 Third Street South
St. Petersburg FL 33705-5305



David A. Kiewit
Reg. No. 34640
(727) 866-0669 voice/fax